## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

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March 19, 2020

## Dear Madam or Sir:

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic will present many hardships for Americans across the nation. We believe that you, as our country's largest credit card issuers, have a unique opportunity and responsibility to help mitigate some of the financial harms Americans face as a result of this pandemic. Specifically, we urge you to suspend collecting interest on balances and waive all late fees during the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With Americans being directed to stay home and practice social distancing to prevent the spread of this deadly pandemic, many businesses across the country have been forced to temporarily close their doors. As a result, many hourly workers will face significant financial burdens and have difficulty covering their basic living expenses, including rent, groceries, and medicine.

Some Americans have already experienced coronavirus-prompted layoffs, worsening their financial hardship. A recent poll indicates nearly one in five Americans have already seen a reduction in their work hours or have been let go from their job, and it is likely that will see an increase in these numbers. These hardships will undoubtedly have a disproportionate effect on working families and low-income households across the nation. With many families living

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Matthew Impelli, Coronavirus Pandemic Sees Nearly 1 In 5 Americans Either Lose Their Job Or Have Their Hours Reduced: New Poll, NEWSWEEK (March 17, 2020), <a href="https://www.newsweek.com/coronavirus-pandemic-sees-nearly-1-5-americans-either-lose-their-job-have-their-hours-reduced-1492725">https://www.newsweek.com/coronavirus-pandemic-sees-nearly-1-5-americans-either-lose-their-job-have-their-hours-reduced-1492725</a>

paycheck to paycheck, the sudden nature of this pandemic has not allowed for people to financially prepare for the impending economic crisis.

We urge your institutions to suspend collecting interest, fees, and take any other actions to ease the financial burden on customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important that we work together to protect Americans during this public health emergency so that we can ensure we have a stronger economy for years to come.

Sincerely,

David N. Cicilline

Member of Congress

M. Cullue

Peter Welch

Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur Member of Congress

Al Lawson

Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell Jr

Bill Pascrell, Jr. Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman Member of Congress

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Bobby Rush

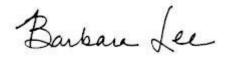
Member of Congress



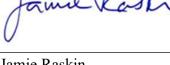
Norma Torres Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García Member of Congress



Barbara Lee Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin Member of Congress



Judy Chu Member of Congress

lovd Doggett

Lloyd Doggett Member of Congress



Mark Pocan Member of Congress



Hank Johnson Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree Member of Congress



Tim Ryan Member of Congress



Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro Member of Congress

COVID-19 Pandemic Letter to Credit Card Issuers March 19, 2020

Jachie Spicer

Jackie Speier Member of Congress

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Mike Quigley Member of Congress

ga Saramenti

John Garamendi Member of Congress

JOHOUIN CASTRO

Joaquin Castro Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu Member of Congress

Ted W. Lien

Kathy Castor

Kathy Castor Member of Congress

Jen Schalmaly

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Maneste Diaz Baragán

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Pramila Jayapal Member of Congress

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Josh Harder

Member of Congress

James P. Mr. D. Donald M. Payne, Jr. James P. McGovern Member of Congress Member of Congress Joe Courtney Alma S. Adams Member of Congress Member of Congress wide J. Jan Linda T. Sanchez Ro Khanna Member of Congress Member of Congress Ekneide Danny K. Davis **Brad Schneider** Member of Congress Member of Congress Marcia L. Fudge Mary Gay Scanlon Member of Congress Member of Congress Deb Haaland Lori Trahan Member of Congress Member of Congress